

Bennett C. Barnes and Sarah A. Rodgers Timeline¹

- abt 1824 **Alabama. Bennett C. Barnes** was born to William Barnes, Sr., and Sarah Sanderson. The C. could have stood for Carroll. Birthdate is based on 1850 census data in Hopkins Co., Texas.
- 1830 **Fayette Co., Tennessee.** Federal census. **William Barnes. Lilburn Barnes** was next door.² Bennett C. Barnes (abt 1824) is likely to be: 1 m 5-9 1821/1825
- May 1831 **Clarke Co., Alabama. Sarah A. "Sary" Rodgers** was born to Simeon Rogers and Elizabeth unknown. Sarah's maiden name is given on her daughter's death certificate (Mary Jane Blair).³
- 1840 **Lafayette Co., Mississippi. Bennett** is probably the following in household of **William Barnes**, p. 178: 1 white male aged 15-20 (born 1820-1825).⁴
- 1846 **Cass Co., Texas. Benj Barnes**, p. 3 [this is likely to be Bennett].⁵
- 18 Sep 1848 **Hopkins Co., Texas. Son, Simeon R. Barnes**, was born.⁶
- 1850 **Hopkins Co., Texas.** Federal Census, p. 151, hh 227/family 227.⁷
Bennet Barns 26 b 1824 AL Farmer, \$80
Sary 19 b. 1831 AL
Simeon 1 b. 1849 TX
- 1854 **Cass Co., Texas. Bennet Barnes**, p. 3.⁸ He was assessed for 1 horse worth \$60, one poll tax @ \$.50, state tax \$.60; county tax \$.30.
- 1854/1855 **Perhaps Cass Co. or Denton Co., Texas. Son, John B. Barnes**, was born.
- 1855 **Denton Co., Texas. Bennett Barnes** was on the county tax rolls.⁹

¹ Acknowledgment is made of the generous help of descendant, Gerald Copher, gcopher@swbell.net.

² Ancestry.com. 1830 United States Federal Census [database on-line] Series: M19; Roll: 176; page 40. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Family History Library Film: 0024534.

³ State Health Services; Austin Texas, USA. Ancestry.com. *Texas, Death Certificates, 1903-1982* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2013

⁴ Ancestry.com. *1840 United States Federal Census* [database on-line] Page: 178; Family History Library Film: 0014841. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010.

⁵ Ancestry.com. *Texas, County Tax Rolls, 1846-1910* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2014. Original data: Texas, County Tax Rolls, 1846-1910. Salt Lake City, Utah: FamilySearch, 2013, Film Number: 002282131.

⁶ Information from Bennett C. Barnes descendant, Gerald Copher of North Little Rock, Arkansas (gcopher!swbell.net).

⁷ Ancestry.com. *1850 United States Federal Census* [database on-line]; *District 8, Hopkins, Texas*; Roll: M432_911; Page: 151A; Image: 307. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2009. Images reproduced by FamilySearch.

⁸ Texas tax rolls, Cass County reel 1 1846-1877 -- 1878 A-B. From www.familysearch.org.

⁹ "Texas, County Tax Rolls, 1837-1910", database with images, *FamilySearch*(<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:Q2QG-3HDZ> : 21 July 2017), Bennett Barnes, 1855.

- 04 Feb 1857 **Denton Co., Texas.** Daughter, **Susan Olive Barnes**, was born.¹⁰
- 1857 **Denton Co., Texas.** **Bennett Barnes** was on the county tax rolls.¹¹
- 23 May 1859 **Denton Co., Texas.** Son, **Joel Densmore Barnes**, was born.¹²
- 01 Jun 1859 **Fannin District, Denton County, Texas.** **Bennet C. Barnes** was grantee and patentee for 160 acres on in File 2727, Patent 330, Vol. 24, Fan. 3rd class.
- 1860 **Wise Co., Texas.** Bennet C. Barnes, Fed. Census, Decatur P.O., p. 317, Dwell. 166/Fam.168.¹³
Household Members: **Name Age Birthdate Birthplace**
Bennet C Barnes 36 1824 AL Farmer
Sarah A Barnes 30 1830 AL
Simson Barnes 10 1850 TX
John Barnes 6 1854 TX
Ollive Barnes 3 1857 TX
Joel Barnes 1 1859 TX
Tennessee Barnes 10 1850 TX Tennessee Gift Barnes, daughter of Bennett's brother William Barnes and Rebecca Waits (Rebecca killed by Indians, William in Civil War). William named a son John Bennett.
- 12 Oct 1861 **Wise Co., Texas.** Daughter, **Mary Jane Barnes**, was born.¹⁴
- 13 Oct 1862 **Gainesville, Cooke, Texas.** **Bennet C. Barnes** was one of the victims of "The Great Hanging at Gainesville, Texas, 1862." (See more about this below.)
- 1870 **Hopkins Co., Texas.** Federal Census, **Sarah A. Barnes**, Bennett's widow and family.¹⁵
Barnes, Sarah A. 41 F W 1829 AL Cannot read or write, blind.
Barnes, John 15 M W 1855 Texas
Barnes, Ollie 13 F W 1857 Texas
Barnes, Jane 8 F W 1862 Texas
- 09 Apr 1873 **Wise Co., Texas.** Patent date, 160 acres, Heirs of **B. C. Barnes Dec'd**, in the Texas Land Title Abstracts.

¹⁰ Information from Bennett C. Barnes descendant, Gerald Copher of North Little Rock, Arkansas (gcopher!swbell.net).

¹¹ "Texas, County Tax Rolls, 1837-1910", database with images, *FamilySearch*(<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:Q2QG-34BQ> : 21 July 2017), Bennett Barnes, 1857.

¹² Information from Bennett C. Barnes descendant, Gerald Copher of North Little Rock, Arkansas (gcopher!swbell.net).

¹³ Ancestry.com. *1860 United States Federal Census* [database on-line]; Roll: *M653_1308*; Page: *317*; Family History Library Film: *805308*. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2009. Images reproduced by FamilySearch.

¹⁴ Information from Bennett C. Barnes descendant, Gerald Copher of North Little Rock, Arkansas (gcopher!swbell.net).

¹⁵ Ancestry.com. *1870 United States Federal Census* [database on-line]; Roll: *M593_1592*; Page: *166B*; Family History Library Film: *553091*. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2009. Images reproduced by FamilySearch.

1880 **Wise Co., Texas.** Federal Census, **Sarah A. Barnes**, widow of Bennett, Pct 2, hh 12.¹⁶

Household Members: **Name Age Birthdate Birthplace Parents' birthplaces**

Sarah A. Barnes 48 1832 AL AL Ind. Blind

John B. Barnes 23 1857 TX MS AL

Joel D. Barnes 21 1859 TX MS AL

Mary J. Barnes 17 1863 TX MS AL

1900 **Justice Precinct 7, Wise Co., Texas.** **Sarah A. Barnes** was in her son's household.¹⁷

Household Members: **Name Age**

Jack D Barnes 41

Racheal A Barnes 40

James D Barnes 12

John W Barnes 16

Jessie G Barnes 15

Ollie M Barnes 12

Sarah A Barnes 65 May 1835 AL AL AL Mother of 1 child, 1 child living.

(Actually more were living) **1835** is later than previous censuses.

From a web page at www.rootsweb.ancestry.com, WorldConnect Project, of Terry, terrymrn@msn.com, database: marshallmeadows, "Trees, Leaves and Nuts," last updated 28 Feb 2011:

GREAT HANGING AT GAINESVILLE. Forty suspected Unionists in Confederate Texas were hanged at Gainesville in October 1862. Two others were shot as they tried to escape. Although the affair reached its climax in Cooke County, men were killed in neighboring Grayson, Wise, and Denton counties. Most were accused of treason or insurrection, but evidently few had actually conspired against the Confederacy, and many were innocent of the abolitionist sentiments for which they were tried. The Great Hanging was the result of several years of building tension. The completion of the Butterfield Overland Mail route from St. Louis through Gainesville brought many new people from the upper South and Midwest into Cooke County. By 1860 fewer than 10 percent of the heads of households owned slaves. The slaveholders increasingly feared the influence of Kansas abolitionists in every unrest. In the summer of 1860 several slaves and a northern Methodist minister were lynched in North Texas. Cooke and the surrounding counties voted against secession and thus focused the fears of planters on the nonslaveholders in the region. Rumors of Unionist alliances with Kansas Jayhawkers and Indians along the Red River, together with the petition of E. Junius Foster, editor of the Sherman Patriot, to separate North Texas as a new free state, brought emotions to a fever pitch. Actual opposition to the Confederacy in Cooke County began with the Conscription Acts of April 1862. Thirty men signed a petition protesting the exemption of large slaveholders from the draft and sent it to the Congress at Richmond. Brig. Gen. William Hudson, commander of the militia district around Gainesville, exiled their leader, but others who remained used the petition to enlist a nucleus for a Union League in Cooke and nearby counties. The members were not highly unified, and their purposes differed with each clique. Most joined to resist the draft and provide common defense against roving Indians and renegades. Rumors began to circulate, however, of a membership of over 1,700 and of plans for an assault when the group had recruited enough men. Fearing that the stories of Unionist plots to storm the militia arsenals at Gainesville and Sherman might prove to be true, Hudson activated the state troops in North Texas in late September 1862 and ordered the arrest of all able-bodied men who did not report for duty. Texas state troops led by Col. James G. Bourland arrested more than 150 men on the morning of October 1. In Gainesville he and Col. William C. Young of the Eleventh Texas Cavalry, home on sick leave, supervised the collection of a "citizen's court" of twelve jurors. Bourland and Young together owned nearly a fourth of the slaves in Cooke County, and seven of the jurors chosen were slaveholders. Their decision to convict on a majority vote was a bad omen for the prisoners, all of whom were accused of insurrection or treason and none of whom owned slaves. The military achieved its goal of eliminating the leadership of the Union League in Cooke County when the jury condemned seven influential Unionists, but an angry mob took matters into its own hands and lynched fourteen more before the jurors recessed. Violence in Gainesville peaked

¹⁶ Ancestry.com and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. *1880 United States Federal Census*[database on-line]; Roll: 1333; Page: 121A; Enumeration District: 126.

¹⁷ Ancestry.com. *1900 United States Federal Census* [database on-line]; Page: 11; Enumeration District: 0150; FHL microfilm: 1241681. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2004.

the next week when unknown assassins killed Young and James Dickson. The decision already made to release the rest of the prisoners was reversed, and many were tried again. Nineteen more men were convicted and hanged. Their execution was supervised by Capt. Jim Young, Colonel Young's son. Brig. Gen. James W. Throckmorton prevented the execution of all but five men in Sherman, but in Decatur, Capt. John Hale supervised a committee that hanged five suspects. A Southern partisan shot a prisoner in Denton. Texas newspapers generally applauded the hangings, disparaged the Unionists as traitors and common thieves, and insisted they had material support from Kansas abolitionists and the Lincoln administration. The state government condoned the affair. Gov. Francis Richard Lubbock, an ardent Confederate, praised Hudson for his actions, and the legislature paid the expenses of the troops in Gainesville. Articles from the Texas press were reprinted across the South. President Jefferson Davis, embarrassed, abandoned his demand for an inquiry into a similar incident involving northern troops in Palmyra, Missouri, and dismissed Gen. Paul Octave Hébert as military commander of Texas for his improper use of martial law in several instances, including the hangings. The northern press heralded the story as another example of Rebel barbarism. Andrew Jackson Hamilton, a former congressman from Texas and a Unionist, had been speaking in the North warning of the danger to loyal citizens in Texas. Reports of the Great Hanging and other incidents lent support to his campaign and led to his appointment as military governor of Texas and the disastrous Red River campaign of 1864. The unrest did not end with the hangings in North Texas. Albert Pike, Confederate brigadier general in charge of Indian Territory, was implicated in testimony and arrested. Although later released, Pike continued to be regarded with suspicion and served the rest of the war in civilian offices. Capt. Jim Young killed E. Junius Foster for applauding the death of his father. He also tracked down Dan Welch, the man he believed to be his father's assassin, then returned with him to Cooke County and had him lynched by some of the family slaves. The Union League was powerless to exact revenge; many members fled along with the families of the slain prisoners, leaving bodies unclaimed for burial in a mass grave. A North Texas company of Confederate soldiers in Arkansas learned of the executions and almost mutinied, but tempers were defused by Brig. Gen. Joseph O. Shelby, their commander. Several men later deserted to return home, but Shelby prevented a mass assault on Gainesville. The half-hearted prosecution of those responsible for the hangings after the war, resulting in the conviction of only one man in Denton, increased resentment among the remaining Unionists in North Texas, but the failure of a Union League march on Decatur indicated the futility of further attempts at retaliation. BIBLIOGRAPHY: Sam Hanna Acheson and Julia Ann Hudson O'Connell, eds., *George Washington Diamond's Account of the Great Hanging at Gainesville, 1862* (Austin: Texas State Historical Association, 1963). Thomas Barrett, *The Great Hanging at Gainesville* (Gainesville, Texas, 1885; rpt., Austin: Texas State Historical Association, 1961). L. D. Clark, *A Bright Tragic Thing* (El Paso: Cinco Punto Press, 1992). L. D. Clark, ed., *Civil War Recollections of James Lemuel Clark* (College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 1984). Michael Collins, *Cooke County, Texas: Where the South and West Meet* (Gainesville, Texas: Cooke County Heritage Society, 1981). Richard B. McCaslin, *Tainted Breeze: The Great Hanging at Gainesville, Texas* (Ph.D. dissertation, University of Texas at Austin, 1988). James Smallwood, "Disaffection in Confederate Texas: The Great Hanging at Gainesville," *Civil War History* 22 (December 1976). Richard B. McCaslin The following, adapted from the Chicago Manual of Style, 15th edition, is the preferred citation for this article. Handbook of Texas Online, s.v. <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/GG/jig1.html> (accessed August 5, 2009). (NOTE: "s.v." stands for sub verbo, "under the word.") The Handbook of Texas Online is a project of the Texas State Historical Association (<http://www.tshaonline.org>). Copyright ©, The Texas State Historical Association, 1997-2002 Last Updated: January 17, 2008.

Great Hanging at Gainesville, The, 1862 - Gainesville, Cooke County, Texas.

Address: <<http://www.mapquest.com/maps/map.adp?latlongtype=decimal&latitude=33.6243099764871&longitude=-97.1551475959638&zoom=8>>

Directions: East of Elm Fork Bridge - SH 51 (south side of road), Gainesville.

Marker #: 5097005347 Year Dedicated: 1964 Size, type: Large red granite Last reported condition: Good; one small bullet nick
Great Hanging at Gainesville, The, 1862 - Facing the threat of invasion from the north and fearing a Unionist uprising in their midst, the people of North Texas lived in constant dread during the Civil War. Word of a "Peace Party" of Union sympathizers, sworn to destroy their government, kill their leaders, and bring in Federal troops caused great alarm in Cooke and neighboring counties. Spies joined the "Peace Party" discovered its members and details of their plans. Under the leadership of Colonels James Bourland, Daniel Montague and others, citizens loyal to the Confederacy determined to destroy the order; and on the morning of October 1, 1862, there were widespread arrests "by authority of the people of Cook County." Fear of rescue by "Peace Party" members brought troops and militia to Gainesville, where the prisoners were assembled, and hastened action by the citizens committee. At a meeting of Cooke County citizens, with Colonel W. C. Young presiding, it was unanimously resolved to establish a Citizens Court and to have the Chairman choose a committee to select a jury. 68 men were brought speedily before the court. 39 of them were found guilty of conspiracy and insurrection, sentenced and immediately hanged. Three other prisoners who were members of military units were allowed trial by Court Martial at their request and were subsequently hanged by its order. Two others broke from their guard and were shot and killed. The Texas Legislature appropriated \$4,500 for rations, forage used by State troops here during the unrest. (1964)